

ND Educational Technology Council Minutes
February 24, 2009
9:00 – 11:15 AM

Members present:	Art Conklin	Tom Cummings
Tom Eberle	Lisa Feldner	Gary Gronberg
Darin King	Rich Lehn	Debby Marshall
Bev Nielson	Steve Snow	Shawneen Voiles

Member absent: Wayne Kutzer

Staff present:	Dan Pullen	Jody French
Jon Skaare	Deborah Janzen	

Art Conklin called the meeting to order at 9:10

Introduction of Guests and new members

Art Conklin welcomed the two new members from Department of Public Instruction; Dr. Gary Gronberg and Steve Snow. Dave Skogen, EduTech E-Rate Coordinator, also attended the meeting.

Correspondence

ND ETC received a letter from Dr. Wayne Sanstead identifying the DPI representatives to the ETC.

Approval of Agenda

Bev Nielson moved to approve the agenda as received. Debby Marshall seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Consent Agenda

Lisa Feldner moved to approve the consent agenda. Bev Nielson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Recognition activities

Congratulations to Barb Meidinger, ND CDE principal, who was selected to serve on the National Association for Online Learning, NACOL Program Committee for the 2009 Virtual School Symposium.

Old Business

Legislative Update

SB 2021 – Funding bill for ITD

The Senate passed ND CDE Funding at the \$1.2 million in general. This funding is approximately 15% of the total ND CDE budget. The other 85% is special funds raised by selling the ND CDE services.

ND ETC requested the same budget as last biennium. This budget funds ETC operating costs and the technology grants to schools.

EduTech lost two of the new PowerSchool positions in the Senate bill. Jody explained that state wide funding of PowerSchool would eliminate the current PowerSchool costs to individual schools. The only school cost would be a nominal charge for workshops.

ITD is requesting funding to upgrade the K12 network. The funds will provide schools with a minimum of 10MB bandwidth capability circuit. ITD staff members will work at each district to upgrade equipment. The goal is to have all of the equipment in place before school starts in the fall.

Federal stimulus money is available for educational technology. These funds would be distributed to schools through the Title II-D funding process. The funding could be available as soon as March 2009. Currently, nineteen schools are eligible for the funding through a competitive grant. Council members encouraged ETC and EduTech staff to offer to work with DPI to tighten up the Title II D competitive requirements so the funds focuses on proven implementations to help students.

Bev Nielson reported that school technology money is part of the ITD budget request. Most of the K12 funding is included in the DPI budget request. The DPI budget bill clearly states that 70% of new money must go to teacher's salaries via formula. This would not apply to IT funding in ITD's budget.

Lisa Feldner stated that the Senate moved the funding for the Longitudinal Data System from general funds to special funds to encourage Federal stimulus money to fund the Longitudinal Data System project.

SB 2205 which have required all school districts and state agencies rewrite their Acceptable Use Policies to allow public employees to contact legislators with state network resources during business hours. This bill died in the Senate.

DPI has received word that the federal grant to fund the Longitudinal Database System (LDS) has been preapproved. DPI does not know a specific amount for this four year grant at this point, but believes that the grant will fund all or most of the \$7 million LDS K12 project plus some pilot projects. Start date for setting up LDS is April 2009. The first year sets up the governance; years two and three will be to set up the database. The last year will be to add some enhancements.

Council Development

John Struchynski and Tammy Fitting, ND CDE staff members, present a ND CDE information and online course demonstration.

Policy Reviews

- a. Executive Limitations *#
 - i) EL-1: Global Executive Constraint
 - ii) EL-2: Emergency Director Succession
 - iii) EL-3: Treatment of the Public
 - iv) EL-4: Staff Treatment
 - v) EL-5: Staff Compensation
 - vi) EL-6: Staff Evaluations
 - vii) EL-7: Budgeting/Financial Planning
 - viii) EL-8: Financial Administration
 - ix) EL-9: Asset Protection
 - x) EL-10: Communication & Counsel to the Council
 - xi) EL-11: Biennial Report to the Public

Bev Nielson moved to affirm the policy reports as presented. Lisa Feldner seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

- b. Progress Report on Results Policies
 - i) R-1 Continuous System Improvement * Dan Pullen, Jody French, Jon Skaare

Dan reviewed the ND ETC grant activities. Three grant programs are administered by ND ETC. The ITV, Classroom Transformation and Qwest Grants will be completed June 30, 2009.

Jon gave the 2009-11 biennium budget details. ND CDE is asking for \$1.2 million to fund salary raises, increased health insurance, ND Studies continued improvement, online course development, and Civics education improvement, and basic operating expenses. Jody stated that a PowerSchool pilot project to facilitate teacher access to multiple PowerSchool accounts for video courses which include students from a variety of schools has been launched.

- ii) R-2 Coordinated Educational Technology System * Dan Pullen, Jody French, Jon Skaare

Dan focused on the need to better align the committees that address school data initiatives. Currently, three committees; PowerSchool Steering, Viewpoint Users Group, and DPI Data Advisory, are working on data system issues. One oversight group with subcommittees may be the better system to coordinate the work of these three committees to facilitate smooth communication among the groups.

Jody called attention to EduTech personnel changes; Dave Skogen hired as the E-Rate consultant, Willard Leith hired as a temporary, Paul Jensen hired as regional ITS for Southeast and Kuauhtemoc Rodriguez received military orders deploying him to Iraq.

Jon stated that the North Dakota Studies project is an expanding project. ND CDE is working with ND CTE concerning a possible grant project to develop science and career courses.

iii) R-3 Distance Education Delivering Comprehensive Curriculum *+ Dan Pullen, Jody French, Jon Skaare

ND CDE is encouraging schools to make use of synchronous course options. CDE staff continues to work with the consultant in improving to position for growth in enrollment.

iv) R-4 Professional Development *+ Dan Pullen, Jody French

v) R-5 System Integrity and Stability *+ Jody French

Debriefing

The nine debriefing forms received were all were marked satisfactory. Comments: “The discussion on legislature was interesting.”

The next meeting will be May 15, 2009 9:00 to noon in Bismarck.

Art Conklin adjourned the meeting at 11:15 am.

Submitted by Deborah Janzen.